

REMARKS

Applicants hereby offer preliminary amendments to the present divisional application in view of the restriction requirement on the parent U.S. application, Serial No. 09/857,391, and to place the application in better form for allowance.

Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6. Applicants have amended Claims 3 and 5 to correct certain informalities without materially altering their scope and have added new Claim 7 to incorporate limitations set forth in the specification at page 6 (Table 2). Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are fully supported in the specification.

Applicants have amended the specification to include customary headings and to provide a statement of priority. Applicants submit that these amendments are directed only to formalities and do not alter the scope of their disclosure.

Applicants have replaced the Abstract to conform the abstract to the claimed invention. A copy of the new Abstract is separately attached.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

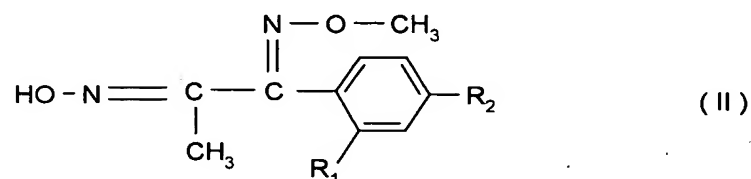
Respectfully submitted,

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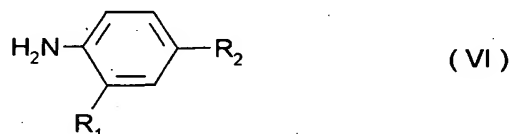
PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF STROBILURIN INTERMEDIATESABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention relates to a process for preparing oximes of formula II

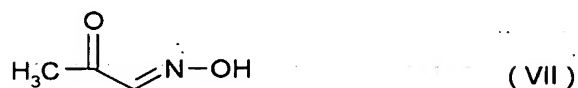


in which R₁ is hydrogen, fluoro or chloro, and R₂ is methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, fluoro, chloro or bromo, by

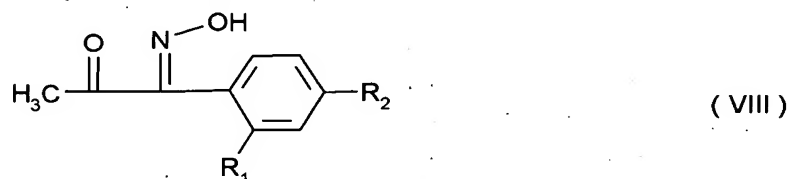
- (a) diazotizing an aniline of formula VI



- (b) reacting the resulting diazonium salt with methylglyoxal-1-oxime of formula VII

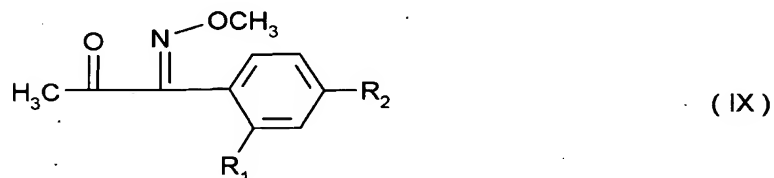


- (c) methylating the resulting ketooxime of formula VIII



with a methylating agent, and

- (d) reacting the resulting O-methyl ketooxime of formula IX



with hydroxylamine.